

REMARKS

In response to the above Office Action, claim 6 has been amended to correct a typographical error and to overcome the rejection of the claim under §112, second paragraph.

In addition, claim 1 has been amended to limit the cyclohexanedione compound of formula (2) to 1,4-cyclohexanedione. Thus 1,2- and 1,3-cyclohexanediones are excluded from the scope of the claims. Also, the aminophenol compound being produced is now limited to a para-aminophenol compound. This is consistent with the preferred aminophenol compounds set forth in claim 6.

As discussed on page 43, lines 1-6 of the specification, the claimed process produces aminophenol compounds of formula (1) at a high yield and a high purity. See Examples 1-10 where 1,4-cyclohexanedione was used in the process of each and the yields obtained.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4, 212,823 to Muller.

Muller relates to the production of 3-aminophenols from 3-aminocyclohexenones. There is no disclosure of 4- or para-aminophenols or a method for producing them. Thus it is believed that neither claim 1 nor claims 2, 4, 5 and 7-12 dependent therefrom are anticipated by Muller. Its withdrawal as a ground of rejection of the claims under §102(b) is therefore requested.

The apparent allowability of the subject matter of claim 6, which is already limited to similar para-compounds, since it was not rejected over prior art is appreciated. However, it is believed claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-12 are also now in condition for allowance for the same reason.

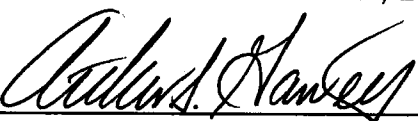
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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